

Solomon Hosts All-Telephonic-Only Annual Meeting

Solomon's annual meeting that is usually held in August was postponed and held on Saturday November 14th due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The tribal elections was held the day prior and was conducted 100% by USPS mail this year. There was no in person absentee ballots accepted.

Acceptance of absentee ballots was until 4 pm on Friday, November 13th by election judge Meghan Topkok from Kawerak, Inc. There was one seat open, Seat "C" and two proposals for consideration: 1. was to provide flexibility in the number of council meetings per year. It currently states that the council will meet once per month. The Council already set the activities for the year, including scheduling Tribal Council meetings and should have the flexibility to schedule meetings as necessary to carry out the business of the Tribe in the most effective and budget friendly manner, and, 2. was to provide flexibility for the Tribal Council to establish committees ie ICWA committee, and, Youth Council, if they so wished to do so. This will also allow flexibility for the Tribal

Council to establish any type of advisory committee, if they so wished to do so. Ms. Topkok counted the absentee ballots and provided a written election results report to the Tribal Council:

Council Seat "C" Write In:
Elizabeth Johnson 14

Proposal #1 22 Yes 5 No
Proposal #2 26 Yes 2 No

There were staff reports from the Environmental, Development and Tribal Coordinator after the President's annual report to the tribal membership.

There was a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Richard Schulling who lost his battle with cancer in September.



FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF SOLOMON

L to R: Sophia Piscocya and Tessa Timbers-Payenna were busy writing notes during a tribal council meeting. Sophia Piscocya is the daughter of Vice President Cameron Piscocya and Tessa Timbers Payenna is daughter to Kirsten Timbers, President of the Village of Solomon.

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President's Report by Kirsten Timbers (presented during Annual Meeting in Nov 2020)

2019-2020 At A Glance

The Village of Solomon has concluded another very exciting year! We have for the tenth year in a row held our tribal youth spirit camp however, due to COVID this year it was virtual on zoom for two days Our tribe has quickly prepared for employee safety and have made our office and services virtual. Please check out our awesome website for up to date info and services applications. <https://www.villageofsolomon.org/> With the fervent drive of the Developmental Coordinator VOS has more revenue streams than ever before expanding benefits and services to our tribal members. In 2020 she has secured CARES funding and CDC funding, as well as Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund.

Tribal Office Elections

Tribal elections were held with one open seat. Seat "C". Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 14.



Membership Benefits

VOS is continuing to promote more Family, Cultural, Recreational, and Social Wellness Choices by purchasing recreational passes at the Nome Swimming Pool and Nome Recreation Center to allow for our tribal membership to take part in health and wellness choices as a family unit during the long winter months. We are also supporting our local hunters and gatherers in VOS Presidents Report, Kirsten Timbers 2020 sharing traditional foods such as fish and game with others within our tribal membership. Through our hunter support agreement, the program will allow for support funds to purchase gas and other supplies up to \$250 (excluding ammo) to hunt/gather for our tribal membership and their families who cannot harvest traditional foods on their own. We had 6 families who participated in this program this past year and hope to continue into the future. Additionally, VOS is providing back to school supplies to students. This is a reimbursable benefit and the items purchased must be included on the back to school list provided by the school or otherwise approved by VOS. We are excited to begin offering this new service to our tribal members.

Bed and Breakfast Update

B&B was open for a handful of reservations this year. Travel and requests for reservations are down due to COVID.

Conclusion

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the VOS. I look forward to the coming year and providing continued service to our members in our new and improved office!

2020-2021 Tribal Council Reorganizes at November Meeting

Here's how to reach the Tribal Council by Email:

Kirsten Timbers, President
Cameron Piscoya, Vice President
Annette Piscoya, Treasurer
Elizabeth Johnson, Secretary
Deilah Johnson, Member
Tim Stettinger, Elder Representative
Joshua Aycock, Youth Representative

oonga4me@hotmail.com
capiscoya@gmail.com
sookinuk@gmail.com
liz@villageofsolomon.org
deilahrj@gmail.com
timstettinger@yahoo.com
joshuaaycock51@gmail.com

Solomon's 2021 Schedule of Activities

January 21	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
February 18	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
March 18	Virtual LEDP 2021 Meeting #1 (may be rescheduled to later date)
April 15	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
May 15	Virtual LEDP 2021 Planning #2
June 17	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
August 8-14	Solomon Youth & Elders Camp and Tribal Gathering
August 13	Annual Tribal Elections
August 14	Annual Meeting, Solomon
August 19	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
September 16	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
October 15	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
November 19	Monthly Tribal Council Meeting
December 5	Anchorage Tribal Membership

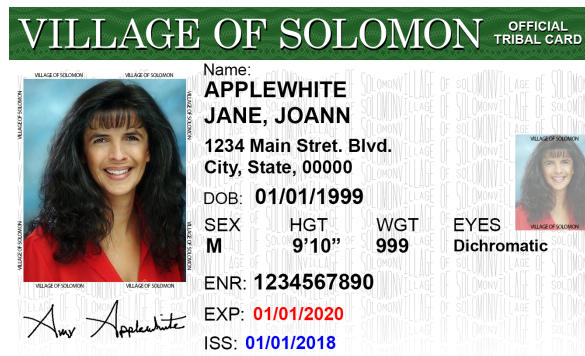
Village of Solomon has new Tribal Coordinator

Effective 2/1/2021 tribal member Amy Johnson accepted the position of Tribal Coordinator for the Village of Solomon. All tribal coordinators are employed by Kawerak, Inc. and serve at the pleasure of its Tribal Council. Amy worked as an office assistant for the Village of Solomon for two years prior to working at the Aurora Inn where she has worked for six months before coming back to Solomon's office in December as alternate Tribal Coordinator. Working in the office for two years helped her gain the experience to work on a variety of projects, specifically, the Tribe's tribal enrollment database, the website, and the Solomon Bed & Breakfast tasks.

Amy has a ten (10) year old daughter, Autumn Johnson in the 4th grade.

Amy is the daughter of long time Tribal Coordinator for Solomon Liz Johnson and the youngest sibling of

EXAMPLE ONLY EXAMPL E ONLY



EXAMPLE ONLY EXAMPL E ONLY

New Tribal IDs Coming Soon!

At January's tribal council meeting, the new updated design of the tribal identification card was approved by the Tribal Council. Upgraded equipment provided by Kawerak, Inc. will allow for an updated design that allows for a physical address in addition to the mailing address.

Once the Village of Solomon receives the new tribal enrollment software and equipment from Kawerak, Inc., the new tribal IDs will be issued to all tribally enrolled members of Solomon.

Derek Johnson and VOS Environmental Coordinator Deilah Johnson and granddaughter of Helen Larsen. Amy also has an older sister Melanie McIntyre of Bethel.

Liz Johnson resigned January 8, 2021.



L to R: Helen Larsen sitting next her granddaughter Amy Johnson

Environmental Coordinator Report by Deilah Johnson (presented during Annual meeting in Nov 2020)

I was nominated to serve on the Bering Strait Regional Energy Leadership Committee as an executive team member, which I represented in a trip to Washington, D.C escorted by Kawerak's Energy Development Specialist. During our trip, we were able to expand our knowledge, network and meet with many, many leaders in the industry as well as Senator Dan Sullivan and Senator Lisa Murkowski's Staff. Not only had I advocated for the Village of Solomon to the politicians, I also advocated to DOE and USDA.

Our Meteorological tower will be taken down by BSDC this year and at that time all of the 2 year data collection will go to Alaska Center for Energy and Power for them to analyze and conduct a report for our feasibility studies.

We initiated a campaign to ban plastic bags in Nome, Alaska in February. We were able to partner with NSHC to host a public event to promote, education and raise awareness on the issue of plastic bags. We had worked toward making this a City ordinance in Nome, unfortunately, due to COVID circumstances the 'Ban the Bag' topic has been put on pause, respectfully.

I applied for an academy back in February, The Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA) is a unique circumpolar knowledge sharing program about isolated power systems integration held in partnership with Canada, Gwich'in Council International, the U.S. and Iceland and endorsed by the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council. I was selected to participate along with 15 other participants within the Arctic Circle. We will be provided a mentor and the opportunity to learn hands-on in Canada, Fairbanks, Kodiak and Iceland in 2021. The program should have begun in May 2020, postponed due to COVID.

We have received a grant from the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund, a sister organization to GRID Alternatives. With this grant, we are installing a 7kW rooftop solar panel system on the B&B, tentatively late May 2021. The install would have been completed in July 2020, postponed due to COVID.

Our Dept. has really been focusing on virtual outreach and education due to the new circumstances of the world. We have been doing our best and are always open to suggestions to better serve you. From the Environmental Dept., we look forward to accomplishing VOS' environmental priorities and goals and are excited for the opportunity to serve our community.



Deilah Johnson pauses as she is video interviewed for the ARENA program in early 2020.

Development Coordinator Report by Deilah Johnson

I have been writing grants for the tribe (EPA included) since 2012. Within that timeframe, we have received over \$1.2 million! For a small community who does not reside in their village – that is an amazing accomplishment our tribe should be so proud of. I have had your full support, your participation, your engagement and guided direction by our elected leaders over the years. I am so proud of Solomon and it shows in the grants I write. When you write grant narratives; you must describe, **STRONGLY** advocate for, and feel a passion for what you are writing about. And I do.

VOS had many projected plans and funding opportunities in the beginning of the year. Of course that had all switched and those funding opportunities quickly re-allocated their budgets toward covid relief programs. With that being said; this last year we have been able to receive funding from:

Center for Disease Control – for covid relief programs within the tribe under the direction of the council. \$150 K

Alaska Community Foundation Coronavirus Relief Fund – for covid relief programs under the direction of the tribal council. \$41 K

“Once our world settles and we can refocus our efforts, we will resume LEPD priorities and our future LEPD priorities under this position. As the grant writer for Solomon, my job is to seek resources in accomplishing your LEPD objectives, and I look forward to doing so in the near future.”

Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) Representative Report

NSHC continues to be the largest employer in the region employing over 750 employees throughout the entire region. The Norton Sound Regional Hospital’s parking lot was expanded last summer which has proven to be the solution to accommodate the ever growing workforce at NSHC. Other projects included the Diomedea clinic that was completed in October and the Shishmaref clinic is scheduled for final completion in June 2021. The Wellness and Training Center will open this summer 2021 and construction for the new St. Michael clinic will begin this June 2021. The design for the new Wales clinic is underway and will be completed by August 2021.

As NSHC continues its work to prevent the spread of the virus in the region, it is pleased to be able to provide disinfectant wipes for the Bering Strait region communities through its CARES Act funding. The Lysol wipes are being distributed through community representatives in all regional villages. Wipes will be made available for the next 24 months for each household in the region. In Nome, wipes are available at the Nome testing center, Nome Food Bank, and the Norton Sound Regional Hospital ground level.

NSHC provided \$1000 to all twenty tribes and the Nome Community Center to support safe, social distancing activities. Education was provided with the funds.

NSHC provided \$15,000 tribal wellness funds for each of the tribes in the Bering Strait region through a grant application.

In November 2020 was NSHC’s 50th Anniversary and to celebrate each household in Nome and the Bering Strait region was offered a holiday meat,



and a utility/internet bill discount that will be applied to residents’ preferred service provider. A Christmas card, which was late to arriving to all box holders in the region, includes a coupon for the \$100 toward the region’s provider of choice. Anniversary discounts also started on November 28, 2020 for eye care supplies (contacts, glasses), hearing aides, and dentures.

The NSHC board has returned to meeting quarterly though virtually only and its next full board meeting is scheduled to meet the 2nd week of May 2021 with committee meetings scheduled during the month of April.

The Village of Solomon’s representative is **Elizabeth Johnson** on the NSHC Board of Directors. She serves on the Executive Committee, Bylaws, Personnel & Policy Committee, Finance, Clinical Services and Compliance Committees. She also serves on the Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement Committee.

**VILLAGE OF SOLOMON TRIBAL MEMBER
UPDATE OF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name of Tribal Member/Head of Household: _____

Tribal Enrollment #: _____

Physical Home Address: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Best way to reach me is by: USPS mail phone email

Please list the Name of Child/ren Living in Home in K-12:

_____ Tribal Enrollment #: _____

_____ Tribal Enrollment #: _____

_____ Tribal Enrollment #: _____

School: _____

School: _____

School: _____

Please provide this information when calling the office to update your contact information. It is important to keep your mailing address current so that you continue to receive our newsletters, tribal election and annual meeting mail outs and any other important information that the Village of Solomon may send to the tribal membership.

You may also fax this form to 907 443-5189 or send an email to Amy Johnson, Tribal Coordinator at tc.sol@kawerak.org.

Kawerak Representative Report by Kirsten Timbers

“Advancing the capacity of our People and Tribes for the benefit of the region.”

Kawerak has been extremely cautious with the pandemic and has allowed their workforce the flexibility to work from home. The head starts throughout the region has opened its doors again in January. Although working from home Kawerak's leadership has ensured services are being provided region wide. Kawerak worked hard with the Obama Administration to establish the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area and advocated for it to be Restored and is pleased to see the Biden Administration do just that. Kawerak has been working with Murkowski's office to extend the deadline of the CARES act funding, which was of course successful. Kawerak has some new construction underway in Shishmaref for their Head Start building. Kawerak led the effort to overturn the Ivory Ban and was successful in passing the Pro Ivory Bill through the Senate Commerce Committee with Dan Sullivan's support.

Kirsten Timbers serves as the Secretary on the Kawerak Board and the Executive Committee, and Personnel and Education Committees.

Kawerak contracts with the state and federal government to provide services to residents of the Bering Strait Region. Kawerak's organizational goal is to assist Alaska Native people and their governing bodies to take control of their future. With programs ranging from education to housing, and natural resource management to economic development, Kawerak seeks to improve the Region's social, economic, educational, cultural and political conditions. Kawerak is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the president (or designee) of the IRA or traditional Councils, two elder representatives and a representative from the regional health care provider. Kawerak reorganized in 2006 and we now have four divisions:

Children and Family Services

Community Services Division

Education, Employment & Training Division

Natural Resources Division

Note: Services are provided only to those tribally enrolled in one of the 20 federally recognized tribes of the Bering Straits region. Tribal members enrolled with the Village of Solomon are eligible for many of the services listed with priority given to those that live in Nome and the Bering Strait region. For more information, visit www.kawerak.org



Photo share by Cameron Piscoya: His twin daughters Adeline and Kenna Piscoya.

Bering Straits Regional Housing (BSRHA) Representative Report

The Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) operates through a Board of Commissioners comprised of five members who are responsible for policies and procedures as well as oversight of all activities carried out by BSRHA. Through a minimum of four meetings annually, the Housing Authority Board provides general direction for all fiscal and organizational activities of the Housing Authority management and staff.

Kirsten Timbers has served on the BSRHA board of Commissioners for three consecutive three (3) year terms. She represents the communities of Council, King Island, Nome, and, Solomon. Her term expires: 10/15/2022 and Alternate is Ruth Ojanen.

Crime Prevention & Drug Elimination Grant: BSRHA supports crime prevention and drug elimination activities through the Youth Grant program. Member

tribes of BSRHA will have the opportunity to create and operate programs that will have a direct impact on reducing crime and drug use among youth in our region. The maximum grant awarded is \$10,000 per tribe. The participating youth must be occupants of affordable housing. The grant is awarded on a reimbursement basis with all costs requiring proper documentation. If there is no documentation of participants being in affordable housing, the grantee will be responsible for a matching contribution.

Housing Preservation Grant: This grant is a forgivable loan for up to \$25,000 to allow (3) low-income, Alaskan Native homeowners the opportunity to perform repairs to their primary residence.

For more information on BSRHA, please visit <https://www.bsrha.org/programs>

Test your Knowledge on the Solomon Tribe

ACROSS:

1. President of the Tribe
2. Village of _____
3. _____ change is the focus of the Paris Agreement
4. To save energy, you must focus on Energy _____
5. "Thank You" in Inupiaq
6. _____ Greenhouse gases

DOWN:

1. Who is seated as our elder on the Council?
2. What are we installing at the B&B in 2021?
3. _____ your aluminum cans
4. Which language is primarily our original?
5. Complete this sentence, renewable _____
6. _____ Wright Youth & elder camp

2021 SUBSISTENCE SUPPORT FUND

Through the Village of Solomon's subsistence support agreement below, the program allows for support funds to Solomon's tribally enrolled citizens to be reimbursed for the purchase gas, oil, or other relevant supplies that support subsistence gathering as needed (excluding ammo).

Guidelines: Must submit completed and signed application below, including all receipts and total dollar amount of request.

Applicants who meet the above guidelines will be allowed reimbursement of \$250 for gas and motor oil, or other relevant hunting supplies as needed (excluding ammo) per tribal member. Receipts must be attached to application/agreement in name of applicant.

Please include a photo of successful hunt by providing a VOS Tribal Elder/Family Sharing Catch with.

These guidelines are based on trust to share his/her subsistence catch with tribal elders and families who are not able to harvest traditional foods on their own.

APPLICATION FOR SUBSISTENCE SUPPORT

First & Last Name: _____ Tribal Enrollment # _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount of receipts for reimbursement requesting: \$ _____

By signing below, I understand that in order to be reimbursed, the most current form needs to match the calendar year. For example, if you are submitting receipts for year 2021, the form must be dated "2021 subsistence support form". The forms must match our grant funding year application in which it was received. This application form supersedes any other subsistence support forms that may have been used in the past and will not honor use of outdated forms.

By signing below, I agree to share my subsistence catch with Village of Solomon tribally enrolled members who is not able to subsist and put away traditional foods for the winter.

I understand that if this application is approved my reimbursement check will be issued during normal every other Friday check issuance and then mailed to the address provided above. No hand deliveries, or pick ups, no exceptions.

Requested/Signed by: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed and approved by the Tribal Council on 7/7/2020
Reviewed and approved by the Tribal Council on 2/18/2021

This form is available on the website at www.villageofsolomon.org/forms-applications

News & Noteworthy from Solomon

NSHC Compliance Officer Receives “Coho Award” for contributions to Policy and Advocacy by Megan MacKiern from Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC)

Cameron Piscoya, NSHC Compliance Officer, was recognized by the Alaska Primary Care Association, APCA, for his contributions in the area of Policy and Advocacy. His nomination stated, “Since Cameron started with NSHC, he has led efforts to advance our corporation through policy and compliance leadership. He is an instrumental part of our quality improvement team for NSHC’s sixteen CHC’s helping investigate and determine solutions to compliance and safety concerns. In the past two years, he has also helped shape NSHC’s research board to empower self-governed decisions about the research done on/about the patients of the region. Cameron obtained his Certification in Healthcare Compliance in 2019 and is involved in policy making on the tribal, local, state, and national levels”.

Congratulations to Cameron Piscoya on this achievement. He currently serves as the Solomon Tribe’s Vice President of the Tribal Council.



Welcome Tribal Members Enrolled with Village of Solomon

- Thomas Menadelook, son of Wilma Amaktoolik & great great grandson of the late Francis Wright
- James Davenport, grandson of Francis Wright family
- Jessica Davenport, daughter of James Davenport
- Jordan Davenport, daughter of James Davenport
- Roberta Day, Darlie Kalerak’s daughter
- Jamie Regala, originated from Curran family, and biological daughter of Clara Tootkaylok
- Kanon Thomas, son of Jamie Regala



Top R down: Jaxson Huntsman in his football attire. Tristan Hudson after a try at crabbing in Florence Oregon’s South jetty.

L to R bottom : Jim Davenport with his girls Jessica & Jordan Davenport. Baby Thomas Menadelook.



Tribal Coordinator Report (presented at the Annual meeting in Nov 2020)

TO: Village of Solomon Tribal Membership
FR: Elizabeth Johnson, Tribal Coordinator
DT: November 4, 2020
RE: Tribal Coordinator Report



The VOS tribal council continues to reach out to its tribal membership through the biannual newsletter so it is important to inform the tribe when mailing addresses change. We also reach out through emails for those that provide email addresses. The tribe maintains a website with all of our information including a place to email the tribe to provide an updated address. You can also access our subsistence support forms and back to school supplies by reimbursement form, etc. Our newsletters and LEDP are published there and educational documents that have been created by IGAP. This does not replace anything that tribal members already receive through emails and USPS. The website can be found at www.villageofsolomon.org.

The VOS office continues to issue tribal ID cards. The tribal membership card can be used as a form of ID as requested by tribal members. Kawerak is providing a more comprehensive version of our tribal enrollment software that should meet the Real ID Act requirements that will be ready to use at the VOS office hopefully by the first of the New Year. At this time, the vendor is designing the layout and importing the old Progeny information into the upgraded software.

Our tribal Council meets the third Thursday every month. Dates of meetings are also posted on the website. VOS prints our newsletter biannually. Photos and announcements are always welcome.

Lastly, like every year, VOS is interested in hiring a carpenter, laborer, bnb coordinator, housekeeper, and two camp coordinators in the summer. These jobs are temporary only during the summer months. If you are interested in working for VOS, please contact the office at 443-4985 or send an email to liz@villageofsolomon.org.



Top L to R: Siblings Robert Curran, Jr., Helen Bohn, Liz Johnson with mother Helen Larsen (Curran). Middle: Elaina Tumulak
Bottom L to R: Annette and Kooper Piscoya; Luella Tumulak fishing in Seward; and, Meghann Piscoya with nephew Ethan Piscoya

TRIBAL WELLNESS FUND AVAILABLE

The Village of Solomon strongly promotes family preservation and culturally relevant activities for all tribally enrolled members of the Tribe. The Village of Solomon provides reimbursement for such type activities. Please provide the following information in order to be considered for reimbursement.

First & Last Name: _____ Tribal Enrollment # _____
Current Mailing Address: _____
Contact Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Please circle the item that was purchased:

- a. Rec Center gym pass at local gym (Nome residents receive directly from VOS)
- b. Swimming Passes (Nome residents receive directly from VOS)
- c. NSHC Camp department related fees: _____ (please list what it was for)
- d. Sports fees & Supplies
- e. Outdoor activity Supplies, such as sleds and ice skates
- f. Cultural related Courses offered by NWC (Nome only)

Reciepts and amount of reimbursement requesting: \$\$ _____

By signing below, I understand that if this application is approved, my check will be issued during normal every other Friday check issuance and then mailed to the address provided above. No hand deliveries, no exceptions. Please submit request to admin@villageofsolomon.org or mail to: Box 2053, Nome, AK 99762

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form is available on the website at www.villageofsolomon.org/forms-applications

Village of Solomon
Box 2053
Nome, AK 99762
Phone 907 443-4985
Fax 907 443-5189
www.villageofsolomon.org

PLACE
STAMP
HERE